by the circumstances of my Party. He therefore felt that in order to avoid splitting his Party he was under an obligation to do all in his power to bring his colleagues, the Conservative ex-Ministers, inside the new* Coalition. Of the steps he took to induce them to remain at the posts they held, or their equivalent, I shall give an account later on*

In this connection I quote the following characteristic letter which I received from the late *Leo Maxse's* Mr. Leo Maxse. I think there is a good deal in what he said :—

" *National Review*,
43, Duke Street,
St. James's, London,
S.W.
8th December, 1916

Dear Mr. Lloyd George,

I have little hopes of this reaching you or being read by you, but I must write one line because I am appalled by what I hear as to the manner in which you are being blackmailed by Unionist Front Bench politicians, into making numerous undesirable appointments, which when announced cannot fail to cause a great shock to the public by making them feel that the new Government is very little improvement to the old. . . .

Anxious as we are to be quit of the debris which encumbered the late Prime Minister we are hardly less anxious to be rid of the equally useless rubbish by which Bonar Law is surrounded, and there is really no earthly reason from any

point of view why politicians whose * numbers [5] have long been * up' should be allowed to inflict themselves on the community. All you have to do, if I may say so, is to tell Bonar Law and Co. to go to the devil and they will come to heel. I know these men well